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INCLUDING DUMBO

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Did the state lie to the feds to ease the way for privatization of the Tobacco Warehouse in DUMBO? A new suit says yes.

## Tobacco no'd

### Suit seeks nix of state Warehouse deal

By Andy Campbell  
The Brooklyn Paper

State parks officials led to their federal counterparts in order to turn the landmarked Tobacco Warehouse into a privatized development project without any public oversight, a lawsuit alleges — and on Tuesday, a federal judge ordered an expedited hearing in the case.

Last week, Brooklyn Heights groups used the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, claiming that the agency worked with Brooklyn Bridge Park officials to rezone the warehouse so that it was no longer part of the federally protected parkland of Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park. The Civil War-era relic was handed over to

November to the St. Ann's Warehouse theater company, which has a \$15-million plan for a performance hall and plaza.

The action was filed to stop the transfer of the Tobacco Warehouse to St. Ann's Warehouse. Federal Judge Eric Vitaliano agreed with the plaintiffs on the need to act quickly, ordering a hearing for next Thursday.

The state allegedly launched a covert plan in 2009 to remove the Tobacco Warehouse from the park completely — all it needed to do was tell its counterpart, the National Park Service, that nobody used the site and that it was better suited as a private amenity even though the warehouse actually has a long history of community support.

In turn, the National Park Service skirted a review by approving the state's proposal without questioning it, the suit alleges.

Foes of the deal were misled by the alleged "subterfuge."

"The Tobacco Warehouse is a big part of [the park's] potential, and a unique community amenity — the process for determining its use must adhere to these principles," said state Sen. Daniel Squadron (D-Brooklyn Heights), who slammed the park's transparency last year. "If true, the issues being raised today are disturbing and call the process into further question; they must be dealt with swiftly."

Both state and park officials didn't return calls on time.

## PACKING HEAT

### Grimm suggests that House members carry guns

By Natalie O'Neill  
The Brooklyn Paper

Gun-slinging G-man-turned-Republican Rep. Michael Grimm wants beefed-up security training for him and his House colleagues in the wake of last week's Arizona shootings — and lesson one is that lawmakers should consider packing heat.

"If they feel comfortable with that responsibility, then I support them," he said. "It could put you in a situation where you can protect yourself."

On Tuesday, Grimm (R-Bay Ridge) told his new boss, House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio),

that new members of Congress need "security-based situational awareness training" to put them on better footing against assailants.

Many newly selected members of Congress have never been in the spotlight, Grimm wrote. "I firmly believe this training will be beneficial in various situations, from accidents and illnesses to violence or terrorism they may encounter."

A former FBI agent, Grimm thinks federal politicians should



And he has a bodyguard  
SEE PAGE 2

take safety into their own hands. The training he advocates includes how to spot suspicious people, knowing when to bolt for an exit and how to keep guards in your eyeline — safety tactics he wants new lawmakers to learn at an orientation.

Security and training has not been part of an orientation for

newcomers in past years, although the Capitol police force has stressed the importance of reporting threats and using local law enforcement. Weapons training has never been part of the orientation — nor should it be, Grimm said.

Given his military and law enforcement past, the city's lone Congressional Republican is certainly handy with a weapon — though he declined to say whether

See GRIMM on page 2



## Winging it

### Jay-Z invests big \$ in his cousin's new chicken biz

By Andy Campbell  
The Brooklyn Paper

It's not a businessman — he's a business, *man* — and that's why rapper Jay-Z's investment in Downtown's newest wing joint has already put it on the map.

The King of Brooklyn just

dumped some cash-money — and his famous name — on his cousin's three-month-old chicken wing spot, Buffalo Boss, near Flatbush Avenue Extension.

And since word got out this week, the Jay-Z's wingman cousin has seen a 60-percent

increase in sales.

"It's like 'the Oprah effect,' but it's 'the Jay-Z effect,'" said Buffalo Boss owner, Jamar White, the singer's first cousin. "Business is booming because of Jay-Z's involvement. We got a lot of attention real fast."

White wouldn't disclose exactly how much was invested, but funding is a moot point once Mr. Z's instantly recognizable moniker is tied to a business.

Take the Nets for example. The rapper formerly known as Shawn Carter was an original one-percent shareholder

See WINGS on page 10



Community Board 6 member Nica Lali wants bicyclists to be registered. Here, she points to a cycle with what we consider a suitable license plate.

By Gary Bulso  
The Brooklyn Paper

Cyclists will be forced to register their rides like their gas-guzzling counterparts under a controversial scheme trumpeted last week by a Park Slope activist.

Nica Lali, a writer and member of Community Board 6, said her plan makes cyclists as accountable as motorists — and makes it a cinch for cops to ticket two-wheeled scofflaws.

"Making it easier to give people tickets with bikes will be good

revenue for the city," said Lali, who admitted she is not a "bike person," but that she holds no prejudice against cyclists — including her husband.

"I have to register my dog, my car, I think people should have to register their bicycles, too," she reasoned. "It's still a vehicle in a city with lots of rules that you have to follow to be a part of city society."

The idea of bicycle registration is a new one, and has been debated in places such as Michigan,



transportation Committee will weigh the matter soon, producing a resolution that could shape a nascent citywide debate.

"There's nothing like the threat of an easy ticket to make you adhere to the rules of the road," she said.

Cyclists, already steamed after our explosive report that cops are planning a crackdown on cyclists, targeting renegade riders who flout traffic laws, were revolted by the registration drive.

"It certainly brings us closer to

an Orwellian state," said Boerum Hill resident and avid cyclist Louie Fleck. "It just seems that it is targeting a certain class of individual."

And it defeats the entire philosophy of cycling.

"The whole idea of riding a bicycle is that it's a simpler, more effective and efficient mode of transportation," said cyclist Shom Brody of Sheepshead Bay. "If you are regulating it, you are making it more difficult to do."

See BIKES on page 10

## FOR HIS GIRL

### Slope lawyer jumpstarts the '70s Equal Rights Amendment

By Gary Bulso  
The Brooklyn Paper

Get those "ERA Yes!" buttons out of your closet.

Park Slope lawyer Richard Bashner wants to resurrect the 30-year-old Equal Rights Amendment — a hot-button issue from the 1970s — and he's going to keep on truckin' until women are finally protected under the Constitution.

As the former chairman of Community Board 6, Bashner took the group back to the future last November, putting the once-controversial matter on the agenda, and winning a unanimous

vote of support.

"I did this for Maya," Bashner said, referring to his 9-year-old daughter. "In 2011, it ought to be very clear that men and women ought to have equal rights. It's a basic point that belongs in our Constitution."

The community board has tackled national issues before — just never ones that are 30-years-old, according to District Manager Craig Hammerman. In 2007, for example, it weighed in to support of same-sex marriage.

"After we voted on the same-sex bill, it seemed that we missed something,"



Community Board 6 member Richard Bashner pushed the board to take a position on the old Equal Rights Amendment — and he says he did it for his 9-year-old daughter Maya.

See ERA on page 2

## Grand Prospect garage

### Supporters tout hotel's main benefit — parking

By Gary Bulso  
The Brooklyn Paper

Hotel? What hotel?

A politically connected banquet hall operator's plan for an 11-story lodge on Prospect Avenue met with virtually no opposition at its first public hearing on Thursday night as locals lavished praise on the controversial project's sweetener: a 400-space public garage.

"The biggest problem here is parking," Irene Lo Re, head of the Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District, told a mostly supportive crowd of 40 people. "We can turn our backs on 400 spaces."

Developer Michael Halkias, owner of the Grand Prospect Hall catering center between 15th and 16th streets, has also touted his "Grand



A rendering of the hotel shows it rising high above the Grand Prospect Hall.

Prospect Hotel" plan, but even he was pitching it as a garage project at the meeting at Public School 10.

During a rambling opening state-

ment, Halkias likened the garage to a "magnificent cake" that he hoped to serve to the community. The hotel, he said, is simply "the cherry on top."

It's no surprise that Halkias is highlighting the dessert rather than the broccoli — he needs a city zoning variance to build anything taller than six stories.

And he's spent decades courting the good will of the borough's political establishment. Records show that Halkias and his wife Alice have given \$16,150 to various local candidates since 2000.

The vast majority of that — \$9,850 — was given to Borough President Markowitz, whose support will be needed as the project moves through the public review process.

Indeed, Halkias's lawyer said the developer would publish his project through a

See HOTEL on page 10

## Turn flatulence into fuel!

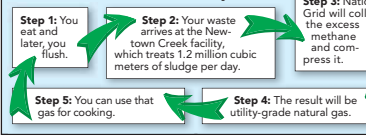
### National Grid building a plant to convert our gas into, well, gas

By Aaron Short  
The Brooklyn Paper

National Grid wants to convert your flatulence into fuel — and then sell it back to you.

The utility company is teaming up with city to build a gas processing facility on Greenpoint Avenue and Humboldt Street that will convert excess methane — farts, if you will — from the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant into utility-grade natural gas.

Here's how the so-called 'Fart Factory' works:



If it all works as planned, National Grid will capture about 550 million cubic feet of gas per year — enough to heat 2,500 homes.

The design of the new purification facility, which is already calling "The Fart Factory," is halfway finished and construction is expected to begin later this year and end in 2012.

Currently, the sewage plant See GAS on page 10

## Stephen Brown —

### journor of the year

By Moses Jefferson  
The Brooklyn Paper

Stephen Brown has done it again — won the highest honor from the national newspaper association.

Reporter Stephen Brown has been named "Journalist of the Year" by the Suburban Newspapers of America, a trade group whose members have a combined circ-

ulation of 22 million.

Brown "proves that news can be informative and entertaining," according to the judges in the nationwide contest, in which Brown beat out hundreds of seasoned scribes.

His editor, Gersh Kuntzman, was typically effusive (about himself).

See BROWN on page 10



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# Grimm adds muscle

## Freshman rep will have a his own bodyguard

By Natalie O'Neill  
The Brooklyn Paper

Soldier-turned-Congressman Michael Grimm has hired a former NYPD detective who will "act as a bodyguard" for himself and staffers in the wake of the Arizona shootings — but Brooklyn's lone Republican member of Congress is apparently not only local lawmaker to take such a drastic step.

Grimm (R-Bay Ridge) said that the employee — who is one of 10 local staffers and has a military background — will act as a security guard at big events, plus help local war vets get available benefits.

Grimm's spokeswoman did not make the freshman lawmaker available to explain his personnel decisions, nor would she give the guard's name or salary. But the other members of Brooklyn's Congressional delegation all

Democrats — said that they don't need or want a personal shadow, despite the shooting of House colleague Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.).

That decision appears to be motivated both by simple frugality, but also by the desire to avoid the appearance of seeming out-of-touch with their constituents.

"Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-Coey Island) — who up until two years ago kept his home phone number listed in the White Pages — said that having a bodyguard goes against the idea that members of Congress should be approachable. (Of course, he said that through a spokesman.)

"He wants to be in touch with the public, not removed physically or symbolically," said spokesman Ian Kaysky, adding there's no money in the budget for that, anyway. "He doesn't feel the need for

it unless the threats are immediate and undeniable."

"Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-Park Slope) represents Crown Heights and Brownsville — two of the most dangerous patches of Brooklyn in terms of violent crime rates — yet she doesn't have personal guard."

"There is always a measure of danger and risk in my position of being a public servant," she said. "[But] I do not feel that I need any extra security."

"Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-Sunset Park) also does not have a bodyguard, though a liaison at her Brooklyn office would not say why."

"Rep. Ed Towns (D-Fort Greene) isn't 'going to change priorities in the wake of any perceived terrorism,'" said his spokesman Julian Phillips. "It will be business as usual."

"Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-Sheepshead Bay) did not return calls seeking comment, but he rarely travels with an aide, let alone muscle."

The attention to security comes after the Capitol police forced members of Congress to report threats and appoint staffers to act as liaisons — or "security coordinators" — to law enforcement in their hometowns.

Some lawmakers said they often conduct meetings and town hall events with zero security. Others responded more dramatically, announcing they will pack their own heat in DC and hire more visible security at controversial events.

Grimm is in the latter camp.

The Operation Desert Storm veteran and FBI agent made news last Tuesday when he asked House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) to provide situational awareness training for newbies on the Hill that would teach their security basics.

Grimm added later that House members who want to carry guns should do so.

And he's certainly comfortable with security. At last Sunday's ceremonial swearing-in, three burly men wearing suits — presumably security guards — surrounded Grimm and his staffers.

"It's not for the crowd that he'll increase security at all his events. "It's not for myself, but for all our volunteers and supporters," he said.

Experts are not so sure the amendment will have the same sense of urgency it did when Kris Kristofferson's "We Me" was a Billboard hit. After all, the 4th Amendment is widely believed to guard against gender discrimination in addition to the racial kind. And courts routinely strike down laws that discriminate based on gender.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is also cited as adding a protective layer from bias. "The Supreme Court has said that pretty much all sex discrimination is unconstitutional, so the need feels less urgent," said constitutional lawyer David Goldberg. "On balance, it's a good idea, but it's probably not a priority."

## GRIMM...

Continued from page 1

"I'm not supposed to talk about that," he said — though he did talk about the benefits of gun ownership.

"If somebody pulls out a knife to attack you and you draw a gun, they're likely going to drop it," he said. "But you have to be prepared to kill; it's not for everyone."

The buzz about protecting representatives comes days after a crazed gunman

opened fire on Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.), leaving her in critical condition. After the tragedy, gun-toting Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC) and Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) announced they plan to carry guns, presumably for personal protection.

But several members of Congress and other DC insiders said on Wednesday that they are uncomfortable with bodyguards and intense security because they want to

stay accessible to constituents.

"Putting more guns in the mix is not the answer," Terrence Gainer, Senate sergeant at arms, told CNN.

Speaker Boehner called Grimm's letter "an excellent idea," and added that security will be a big focus in the House this year.

It already is for Grimm. At his ceremonial swearing-in on Sunday, Grimm told the Congress and other DC insiders said on Wednesday that they are uncomfortable with

bodyguards and intense security because they want to

## ERA...

Continued from page 1

because we never got around to passing the Equal Rights Amendment," said Bashner, who remains on the board, though is no longer its chairman. "What is a more basic tenet than men and women having equal rights?"

Of course, the group's vote is symbolic in nature — it'll be up to Congress to resurrect the amendment, which was introduced in 1972, and passed by the requisite two-thirds vote in Congress, but fell three states short of requisite 38 for ratification by its 1982 deadline.

The amendment was re-

introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Manhattan) in 2009 — this time without a time limit attached — and is gaining new momentum, particularly in light of recent comments by the conservative Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who told California Lawyer magazine that the Constitution does not protect women from discrimination because that's the job of legislatures.

"You don't need a constitution to keep things up-to-date. All you need is a legislature and a ballot box," he said.

The amendment — Equal-

ity of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex" — was introduced in every Congressional session from 1923 to 1970, but never reached a vote until an array of mainstream organized groups and unions forced politicians to take action.

The amendment died in part because conservative groups feared a dissolution of the American family, business interests have such as the insurance lobby thought it would cost them more money, states' rights advocates trumpeted power grab, and pro-life supporters became convinced that it could lead to expanded abortion rights.

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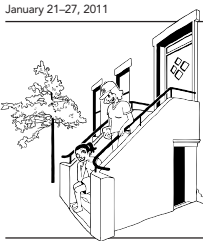
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# THE SLOPE

## NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

### PARK SLOPE



Photo by Peter A. DeLuca

A Florida-based hamburger chain is coming to the heart of Park Slope.

## Chain gang

**Cheeburger Cheeburger is coming to Park Slope**

By Erica Sackin  
for The Brooklyn Paper

It's the ultimate Park Slope good news/had news story: The vacant Miracle Grill space on Seventh Avenue is finally about to reopen—but as a national burger chain with a very cheesy name.

Florida-based Cheeburger Cheeburger put up signs this week heralding its arrival to the space at Third Street, which has been shuttered for a year.

Some residents of the Slope, where Mom and Pop stores still dominate the shopping strips, offered up visions of doom about the arrival of a chain—especially one whose motto is “big is better.”

“I am worried,” said Stuart Fink, a neighbor. “Local business is what this neighborhood is all about, and a lot of places have closed recently, presumably because of high rent and not being able to have as deep pockets as these chains.”

“And that’s not really what Brooklyn should be about,” he added.

The chain is known for its old-fashioned decor, oversized patties with a plethora of toppings, and milkshakes.

Other Cheeburger Cheeburger franchises have popped up in Queens, Staten Island and even at JFK, but this will be the first Brooklyn outpost for the chain, whose name comes from an old “Saturday Night Live” sketch that mocked a beloved Chicago diner whose waiter was constantly saying the words, “cheeburger, cheeburger.”

It’s unclear if the Slope needs another burger restaurant. In the past few years, the neighborhood has become home to a Five Guys location, Brooklyn Flipster, and Drunk Shop—all joining an already crowded field that includes Johnny Mack’s, 12th Street Bar and Grill, and Corner Burger.

Still, not every Park Slope is upset that a vacant storefront will be reborn as a national chain.

“As long as it’s a nice restaurant, I think it’s a good thing to have a business here,” says Alan Badler, a Park Slope resident of 18 years. “If it was a Burger King or a McDonald’s, I might feel differently. But as long as it’s done tastefully, I would say wait and see.”

But as someone once said, all politics is local—will Park Slopes actually eat a cheeburger at Cheeburger Cheeburger?

“I have a 3-year-old, so if they have milkshakes, possibly,” said Fink.

“But,” he added quickly, “it won’t be our first choice.”

### DUMBO

## Cops hunt Monitor St. gunman

By Aaron Short

The Brooklyn Paper

Police are hunting for the gunman who shot and critically wounded a bar customer

on Friday night on Nassau Street in Greenpoint. Cops said that the shooting of the 30-year-old porter does not appear to be a random act of violence, though

officers would say little else about the 10:30 pm shooting near Nassau Avenue. Ear-witnesses said they

heard two shots, and when cops arrived, they found the man victim nearly dead. He was taken to Woodhull Hospital and transferred to Bellevue Hospital, where his health is declining.

“He’s on life support—it’s a matter of time,” said a police spokesman. “The hospital is waiting for the family to come.”

Detectives are reviewing video obtained from the last location where the victim was seen that night.

The shooting is the sixth in Williamsburg and Greenpoint’s 94th Precinct over the last 12 months, and fourth in the past eight months.

The latest attack has startled many nearby residents, including Sara Bacon, who walked her dog past the crime scene early the next morning.

“I had to pick my dog up off the sidewalk because there was a ton of blood on the ground,” said Bacon. “It is a weird thing to happen here.”

### WILLIAMSBURG

## Brooklyn Brewery grows

By Andy Campbell

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Brewery has finally reached the tipping point.

This week, the borough’s hottest beer purveyor expanded its Williamsburg complex, unveiling new brew equipment that will double its distribution—meaning that most of the golden elixir will be produced here instead of upstate.

“In the past year we’ve distributed about 110,000 barrels—with the new brewery we expect to double that in the next three years,” said Brooklyn Brewery owner Steve Hindy. “All the growth will be right here in Brooklyn.”

The new space, which is next door to Hindy’s existing complex on N. 11th Street, will not only make the brewery 14 times larger, it’ll host an entirely new system that makes the brewing process smoother and the beer tastier.

Tommark the occasion, brewmaster Garrett Oliver is making a new craft ale fittingly



Photo by Peter A. DeLuca

named Main Engine Start that will be available on draught for only a short time. That said, the new brew kettle and equipment will allow for a new experimental product every three to four months.

Better yet, some of the draught-only seasonal ales that Oliver and Hindy have produced in small batches will start making their way to the bottle.

“Those beers used to be

produced for places that specialize in craft beer,” Hindy said. “What we’ve found is that more and more places want them.”

And now he can give it to them.

### DUMBO

## City: Time to bus a move

Tour buses to be pushed away from Bklyn Bridge Park

By Andy Campbell

The Brooklyn Paper

The city is moving to stop droves of double-decker tour buses from idling and clogging the foot of Old Fulton Street during the summer—a traffic debacle that’s reached a breaking point since Pier 1 of Brooklyn Bridge Park



Photo by Peter A. DeLuca

opened early last year. The Department of Transportation and NYPD will install new “No Parking” signs

and step up enforcement—at the entrance to the park near Furman Street this spring, in order to end the giant buses’ reign over the streets before they start making their rounds again this summer.

Tourism isn’t the problem—locals argue that the buses double- and triple-park on the two streets near the pier to let their customers get off and tour the area. The buses idle for long periods and frequently block Furman Street,

which acts as an access road for trucks coming from the beer distributors at Pier 7 and an alternative to the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

“It’s become a hazard because there’s so much traffic down there,” said Joan Zimmerman, Old Fulton Street resident and president of the Fulton Ferry Landing Association. “[Last summer], we counted 44 buses in one hour on that stretch, most of them double- and triple-parking.”

State Sen. Daniel Squadron (D-Brooklyn Heights) echoed Zimmerman’s woes

### BAY RIDGE

## Suspect in robbery

By Alex Rush

The Brooklyn Paper

The FBI has identified the principal suspect in the armed robbery of the Ridgewood Savings Bank on Third Avenue on Dec. 23.

G-men say Marat Mikhalich, a 6-foot-4, 200-pound giant made off with \$4,300, plus robbing two banks in Queens on Dec. 19 and 20.

“Mikhalich’s alleged behavior was reckless and incredibly dangerous,” Special Agent Richard Kolkos said in a statement. “Anytime anyone enters a bank with their finger on the trigger, the worst can happen.”

In the Bay Ridge crime, cops say that Mikhalich entered the bank, which is be-



Photo by Peter A. DeLuca

located at 85th and 86th streets, at about 10 am. The robber gave a teller a note that read, “I have a gun. Give me all the money.” The teller did as he was told, but the thief wasn’t satisfied, pulling out his gun and forcing another teller to give him more money.

The perp stuffed the wad of cash in a fanny pack and fled.

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# Five shot in fight over a girl

## 88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

A heartless gunman wounded five people leaving a basketball game at Bishop Loughlin HS on Greene Avenue on Jan. 14 during what police are calling a long-simmering feud over a girl.

The victims, four teenage boys and a teenage girl between 17 and 19-years-old, told police that they had just left the game and were near Vanderbilt Avenue at 9:58 pm when the gunman opened fire.

Three of the victims suffered gunshot wounds to their feet, police said. One 19-year-old was hit in the thigh and buttocks while another 19-year-old suffered a graze wound to the arm.

None of the injuries appeared life threatening. A police source said that investigators are close to identifying the gunman. It's believed that the gunman knew that his victims would be at the game and came to Fort Greene to confront them.

## POLICE BLOTTER

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about his paramour.

It was unclear, however, if the female victim involved in the shooting was the woman who inadvertently sparked the bloodshed.

### iPad snag

A thief made off with a woman's \$1,000 iPad following a mugging at the Clinton-Washington train station.

The woman was tinkering with her computer tablet on the C platform at 11:10 am when the thief sat next to her.

A few moments later, the thief snatched the computer from the woman's hands and ran out of the station.

A police source said that investigators are close to identifying the gunman. It's believed that the gunman knew that his victims would be at the game and came to Fort Greene to confront them.

### iPhone grab

A quick-moving thief swiped an iPhone from a 30-year-old woman on Grand Avenue during a Jan. 16 confrontation.

The girl on girl action began as the two victims neared the corner at 4:15 pm and the six female friends attacked, leaving their victims with bruises and scratches.

Cops apprehended two girls, ages 13 and 15, for the crime a short time later.

### Food fiends

A crook broke into the A&J Food Market on Lafayette Avenue on Jan. 12, taking \$3,500.

Workers at the store between Fort Greene and S. Elliott places said the thief forced open the front gate and broke the lock to the front door in order to get inside.

### Sticky nails

A thief with wet fingertips snagged a Coach purse from a Fulton Street nail salon on Jan. 12.

A worker for the salon between Washington Avenue and St. James Place said she left her bag at her work area at 1 pm. When she went to retrieve it at 7:30 pm, it was gone.

### Vehicle vixens

Thieves found cars to be easy prey in Fort Greene last week. Here's the rundown:

• A thief forced open a car on Willowoughby Avenue between Emerson Place and Hall Street on Jan. 10, taking a Coach bag he found inside.

• What a beauty of a crime! A crook broke into a car on Atlantic Avenue between S. Portland Avenue and Fort Greene Place on Jan. 13, taking more than \$6,000 in cash and beauty products.

— Thomas Tracy

## 84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO-Boerum Hill-Downtown

### Jobs smack

A jerk slapped an iPhone out of a woman's hands and ran off with the expensive device on Bond Street on Jan. 13.

The woman said she was near Atlantic Avenue at about 5:35 pm when her assailant ran up and snatched the phone to the ground, then picked it up and left.

### Shoe sham

A klepto with an apparent need for shoes stole a pair of ratty kicks from Souza shoes on Smith Street on Jan. 11.

An employee at the shop told cops that the perp came into the store, which is near Warren Street, at about 5:45 pm and snatched a pair valued at \$1,005. The thief tried them on and then fled the store when the worker wasn't looking.

### Table heist

A sneaky burglar managed to lift a \$1,000 side table from the Eco Concept furniture store on Front Street on Jan. 13 — while the store was open.

Store managers told cops that they noticed the side table and a metal frame missing from the store, which is near Washington Street, at about 11:30 am. They said that the store is rigged with cameras, but they weren't on at the time.

### iFail

A mugger was arrested after holding up a pedestrian for his iPod on DeKalb Avenue on Jan. 12.

The victim said that he was near Flatbush Avenue Extension at about 4 am when the creep approached, pretending to have a gun in his pocket.

"Do you have any money, and your phone?" the jerk asked, prompting the victim to hand over his iPod. Cops said the thief fled.

### Window wash

A sneaky thief used a shovel to pull a MacBook out of the victim's Dean Street window on Jan. 14.

The tenant of the apartment, which is near Hoyt Street, said that she came home at about 4 pm to find a shovel near her open window.

— Thomas Tracy

dow. Inside, the laptop was missing from her desk near the window.

### Snatch-n-go

A swift thug swiped a woman's iPhone on the A train platform in the Hoyt and Schermerhorn streets station on Jan. 15.

The woman said that she was waiting for the express train at about 6:40 pm when the thief approached — during rush hour — grabbed the expensive phone out of her fingers and fled.

### Grab bag

A brute smashed the window of a car parked on Jay Street and stole an expensive bag and a laptop early on Jan. 15.

The victim told cops that he arrived at his car, which was near York Street, at about 2 am to find glass everywhere and Macbook missing.

— Andy Campbell

## 76TH PRECINCT

Carnell Gardens-Cobble Hill-Red Hook

### Mime crime

A black-clad fiend with a make-believe gun robbed a man on W. Ninth Street on Jan. 11.

The 27-year-old victim told cops he was near Henry Street at 5:40 pm when the thug approached, pretended to have a handgun in his waistband, and said, "Give me what you have." The crook made off with \$500.

### Full Nelson

A man choked a teen and threatened her at knife-point on Nelson Street on Jan. 10.

The 16-year-old victim said that she was near Hamilton Avenue at 9:30 am when someone approached her from behind, put a blade to her neck, and growled, "If you scream, I will cut you."

Cops said a passerby scared off the attacker, who fled. The victim suffered abrasions to her neck and left hand.

### Terrible trio

Three brutes robbed and beat a man on Nelson Street on Jan. 12.

The 28-year-old victim told cops that he was near Columbia Street at about 9:50 pm when the trio attacked him from behind, punching and kicking him.

— Alex Rush

hind, punching and kicking him.

The gang made off with a BlackBerry cellphone, the man's wallet, and his keys. — Gary Bulso

## 68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights

### What a tool

Someone stole two jackhammers, a generator and other construction equipment from an 80th Street house between Jan. 11 and Jan. 13.

The handy victim told cops that he was gone from his place, which is between Harbor View Terrace and Shore Road, for two days. When he returned, the lock on his front gate was missing and his stuff was gone.

### Macho man

Some workout fanatic stole a muscle stimulator, weights and other pricey items from a 2008 Audi on 81st Street overnight on Jan. 15.

The fit victim told cops that he returned to his ride, which was near Fourth Avenue, and discovered that his driver's-side window had been broken. Closer inspection revealed that his exercise equipment, iPod and navigation system were missing.

### 86th heist

Thieves made out with a department store-worth of stuff from an 86th Street apartment between Jan. 6 and Jan. 10.

The victim told cops that she had been staying at a friend's house for several days.

When she returned to her home, which is between Seventh Avenue and Dahlgren Place, her two cellphones, jewelry, laptop and desktop were missing. There were no signs of forced entry.

### Supply raid

A thief who may also be a student stole textbooks, a backpack, a laptop and a jacket from a Nissan on 79th Street overnight on Jan. 12.

The victim told cops that she parked her 2001 ride between Fourth and Fifth avenues at around 9:30 pm and returned at 6:30 the next morning to find the window broken and her stuff gone.

— Alex Rush

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# Cops: We have Williamsburg rapist

By Thomas Tracy  
The Brooklyn Paper

Cops say they have nabbed the villain who sexually assaulted two women in Williamsburg and has been preying on the fairer sex for years.

Rayquan Williams, 21, a resident of the Bushwick Houses, was charged on Friday with attacking a 63-year-old woman inside a Manhattan Avenue apart-

ment building on Jan. 1.

He allegedly struck again on Jan. 12 — this time jumping a 49-year-old woman inside a Flushing Avenue apartment building near his home.

In the first attack, cops say Williams confronted his victim in an elevator of the building between Siegel and Moore streets, and pretended to have a gun. He then sexually assaulted her in a building

hallway, police allege.

In the second attack, the woman broke free and began hammering on apartment doors, scaring off the predator.

"[Williams] said something like, 'I have a weapon,' but I didn't care. I just kept screaming even louder," the woman told New York 1 as she described the encounter. "I kept knocking on doors. Finally someone came out and he

ran down the stairs very."

Police nabbed Williams after releasing surveillance footage from that attack. A tipster led investigators to him, a police source said.

District Attorney Charles Hynes's office explained that hurting women is nothing new to Williams, who has been arrested four times since 2006.

In what can be seen as a pre-

view of his recent crimes, Williams was arrested in August 2007, for attacking a former girlfriend when she refused to have sex with him.

According to the criminal complaint, Williams entered the young woman's apartment on Humbolt Street and demanded sex. When she said, "No one would have sex with you," he slapped her, claimed to have a gun and said he would

"take sex" from her. Williams was arrested before he could make good on his threats and was sentenced to 90 days in jail after pleading guilty to a lesser charge, explained prosecutor, who said the suspect exhibited violence toward women again in July 2009, when he was arrested for attacking his 60-year-old grandmother.

Attempts to reach Williams's attorney were unsuccessful.



The suspect allegedly raped a woman inside her apartment on Manhattan Avenue in Williamsburg.

## Two more iPhone swipes

### 90TH PRECINCT

#### Southside-Bushwick

Two perps stole an iPhone from a man on the J train at Hewes Street on Jan. 16, but never got a chance to use it.

One perp snatched the phone from the owner's hand at 1 pm while the train was stopped, then both thugs jumped out and fled toward Broadway. Police apprehended the accomplice a

few minutes later.

#### Berry bad

A thief slapped his victim and stole his iPhone on Jan. 11 — but police quickly arrested the perp.

The victim was near Grand Street at 7:30 pm when the thug approached and swiped the device. The victim flagged down a nearby police car, and the officer picked up the perps minutes later.

### Thames assault

A thug struck a man in the back of the head while he was drinking at a bar on Thames Street on Jan. 16.

The victim told cops that he was finishing up his night inside the bar near Bogart Street at 3 am when a man slugged him and knocked him out.

#### Broadway boxcut

Five perps slashed a

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16-year-old boy with a box cutter and punched him in the face inside a Broadway Laundromat on Jan. 14.

The victim told cops that he entered the Laundromat near Keap Street at around

6:30 pm. Several masked perps followed him inside and began pummeling him before they fled.

#### Montrose punch

A thief punched a man in the face and took his wallet when he was exiting the Montrose Avenue L-train station on Jan. 13.

The victim was walking up the stairs at 2:10 pm, when the thug punched him in the face, while two accomplices acted as lookouts. The trio took the wallet and fled down Bushwick Avenue.

#### Bag snatch

A perp snatched a woman's bag on Jan. 13 as she was walking on Bogart Street near Thames Street at 10:30 pm.

#### Stagg film

A perp stole a computer and jewelry from a car on Stagg Street on Jan. 15.

The thief took the items from the unlocked car near Lorimer Street at 12:30 pm while its owner was moving stuff out of his old apartment.

#### Nissan stereo

A thief took a bass box and amplifier from the trunk of a Nissan on Broadway on Jan. 11.

The driver told cops that she'd parked near Berry Street at 11 pm and returned two days later to find her trunk unlocked and her stuff stolen.

#### Honda taken

A perp stole a Honda on Leonard Street overnight on

Jan. 10.

The driver parked his car near Boerum Street at 11:15 pm, but returned at 7:50 the next morning to find his car was stolen.

#### Burg roundup

There were at least three reported burglaries last week. Here are the details:

• A thief stole a \$600 computer from a Bushwick Avenue apartment near Devoe Street between 5 pm on Jan. 15 and 11 am the next day.

• A thief took \$3,200 worth of cash and jewelry and a laptop from a Stag Street apartment near Bushwick Avenue at around 6:15 pm on Jan. 14.

• A thief stole a computer from a Powers Street apartment on Jan. 10, while the tenant was at work.

The resident told cops that she left her apartment near Judge Street at 9:30 am and returned 12 hours later to find her stuff stolen.

— Aaron Short

### 94TH PRECINCT

#### Greenpoint-Northside

#### Driggs robbery

Three perps robbed a woman at Driggs Avenue on Jan. 11, taking her phone.

The woman told cops that she was near N. Eighth Street at 7:15 pm when three thugs surrounded her. One punched her in the face and removed her phone while the others served as lookouts.

#### Skillman skills

A perp flashed a knife and robbed a woman on Skillman Avenue on Jan. 16.

The victim was near Graham Avenue at 2 am when the thief approached, displayed the blade and demanded, "Give me your cellphone." She surrendered it, and he ran away.

#### Wheel bad

At least three cars were swiped last week. Here you go:

• A Nissan was swiped from on India Street near Franklin Street overnight on Jan. 13. The owner said she had parked the car at 10:30 pm and returned 12 hours later to find it gone.

• A thief stole another Nissan from Kingsland Avenue on Jan. 16. The driver left the car near Jackson Street at just after midnight, but it was gone by 11 am.

• An Acura was chipped on Frost Street on Jan. 15 or 16. The driver left the car near Graham Avenue at 11 am, and returned 26 hours later to find it gone.

— Aaron Short

### 68TH PRECINCT

#### Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

#### Five shot

A heartick gunman wounded five people leaving a basketball game at Bishop Loughlin HS on Greene Avenue on Jan. 14 during what police are calling a long-simmering feud over a girl.

The victims, four teenage boys and a teenage girl between 17 and 19-years-old, told police that they had just left the game and were near Vanderbilt Avenue at 9:58 pm when the gunman opened fire.

Three of the victims suffered gunshot wounds to their feet, police said. One 19-year-old was hit in the thigh and buttocks while another 19-year-old suffered a graze wound to the arm.

None of the injuries appeared life threatening. A police source said that investigators are close to identifying the gunman.

It's believed that the gunman knew that his victims would be at the game and came to about Greene to confront them about his paramour.

It was unclear, however, if the female victim involved in the shooting was the woman who inadvertently sparked the bloodshed.

### iPad snag

A thief made off with a woman's \$1,000 iPad following a mugging at the Clinton-Washington train station.

The woman was tinkering with her computer tablet on the C platform at 11:10 am when the thief sat next to her.

A few moments later, the thug snatched the computer from the woman's hands and ran out of the station.

#### iPhone grab

A quick-moving thief swiped an iPhone from a 30-year-old woman on Grand Avenue during a Jan. 16 confrontation.

The woman was between Greene and Gates avenues at 3:15 pm when the thief crept up behind her, grabbed the \$500 phone and ran off with it.

#### Six on two

A sinister sextet attacked and robbed two teenage girls at the corner of Lafayette Avenue and St. Felix Street on Jan. 13, but two of the thieves didn't get away with the crime.

The girl on girl action began as the two victims neared the corner at 4:15 pm and the six female fiends attacked, leaving their victims with bruises and scratches.

Cops apprehended two girls, ages 13 and 15, for the crime a short time later.

#### Vehicle vixens

Thieves found cars to be easy prey in Fort Greene last week. Here's the rundown:

• A thief forced open a car on Wiloughby Avenue between Emerson Place and Hall Street on Jan. 10, taking a Coach bag he found inside.

• What a beat of a crime! A crook broke into a car on Atlantic Avenue between S. Portland Avenue and Fort Greene Place on Jan. 13, taking more than \$6,000 in skin care and beauty products.

— Thomas Tracy

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# Freddy's rises again

Scrappy bar, an Atlantic Yards casualty, moves on

By Andy Campbell  
The Brooklyn Paper

Freddy's Bar has finally announced its official grand re-opening, set for Friday, Feb. 4 at the new venue on Fifth Avenue between 17th and 18th streets in the South Slope.

It's a bittersweet reopening for us, of course — Freddy's original location inside the Atlantic Yards footprint dated back to Prohibition and looked like it, too! The project's construction meant the demise of a great bar.

But longtime manager Donald O'Finn is back as one of the owners, and he said he's keeping the old-school look and feel, so we're convinced that this joint will remain great.

"It's not the old Freddy's, but many items did make the long journey from demolition to rebirth," O'Finn said.



During happier times, Freddy's manager Donald O'Finn celebrated the banning of Brooklyn Lager from the bar after the brewery signed a deal with Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner.

"The décor is unique and vibrant; a mixture of the old and new."

Even the shackles of justice — a chain to which barflies locked themselves to show their drunken support for the bar's Quisote quest to defy Bruce Ratner's bulldozers — will be on display, a physical symbol for this story of redemption.

The cutesy reminders won't bring back all of Freddy's long history in Brooklyn, of course — but now it's time to start fresh.

"[The new bar] is owned by the staff and built by the regulars — the old guard is out and the new guard is in, the inmates run the asylum," O'Finn said.

**Freddy's Bar reopening**  
[627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Park Slope, (718) 768-8131, Feb. 4.

# iPhone bike thief strikes

## 78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

A clumsy thief swiped a shiny new iPhone from a woman on Eighth Avenue on Jan. 12.

The 41-year-old victim told cops she was strolling between Eighth Avenue and Third Street at 2:25 pm, when a creep on a bicycle grabbed her cellphone and dropped it. She tried to pick it up, but he grabbed it off on the sidewalk, shouting, "I have a gun!" before pedaling away.

Police are looking for 25-year-old, 170-pound man — the same man, in fact, who police believe is responsible for a wave of bike-bourne iPhone swipes over the past two years.

## Bling bandit

A crook snatched fancy jewelry and documents from a Seventh Street home on Jan. 16.

The 34-year-old victim told cops that he and his wife left their apartment at 12:30 pm and returned at 6 pm to find their home Fourth Avenue ransacked. About \$11,500 worth of watches, bracelets and rings — along with a passport and a birth certificate — had been stolen.

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## Grocery grab

A quick-moving thief stole a car parked in a 12th Street supermarket parking lot on Jan. 16.

The victim told cops he left his black Dodge Caravan in front of Pathmark near Hamilton Place just after 11 am and returned six minutes later to find his car missing with no sign of broken glass. Inside the car were basketballs, clothes and a \$1,000 sound system.

## Purse grab

A thief stole a purse full of credit cards and jewelry at a Seventh Avenue restaurant on Jan. 15.

The 63-year-old victim told cops that she sat her purse behind a chair at 6:20 pm at Sotto Voce restaurant, which is at Fourth Street.

Ten minutes later, she reached for the bag and found it was gone — and with it, a \$700 bracelet, cash and credit cards.

## Tech goldmine

A jerk snatched electronic goodies from a car on First Street on Jan. 10.

The victim told cops that she was unloading her green Volvo near Fourth Avenue at around 6:30 pm, and left it unlocked, which is never a good thing to do. When she returned 20 minutes later, she discovered that her navigation system, iPod and Nintendo game system had been swiped.

— Natalie O'Neill

## 77TH PRECINCT

Prospect Heights

## Wallet grab

A thief swiped a wallet from a McDonald's employee on Jan. 12 during a visit to the Atlantic Avenue eatery.

The victim told police that she had left her purse unattended inside the fast food behemoth at Vanderbilt Avenue at 3 pm. When she returned to it an hour later, her

wallet was gone.

## Window breaker

A hoodlum smashed a St. Johns Place resident's window during an odd afternoon blowup on Jan. 16.

The 46-year-old tenant told police that he was sleeping inside his apartment between Underhill and Washington avenues at 4:30 pm when the goon — whom he didn't know — threw an unknown object at his bathroom window, damaging it.

## Car crackers

Car looters zeroed in on Prospect Heights last week. Here's what happened:

• A thief broke into a 1995 Ford Escort on Bergen Street between Sixth and Carlton avenues on Jan. 11. The owner left her vehicle at 2 pm and returned the next morning to find the window smashed and the registration and parking permit gone.

• A car stripper preyed upon a 1999 Ford Explorer parked on Atlantic Avenue on Jan. 10, taking both license plates and the front bumper. The owner told police that he parked his SUV between Vanderbilt and Underhill avenues at 9 am and returned 12 hours later.

— Thomas Tracy

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# GO BROOKLYN

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

January 21-27, 2011

## The unhappy meal

When did Brooklyn hamburgers hit the \$16 mark?

By Meredith Deliso  
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn is going broke for burgers.

Whether it's on a house-made bun or Arnold classic, crafted with grass-fed or Kobe beef, from the wooden counters of Dumont Burger to the booths of Prime Meats, burgers are no longer a simple affair. And you'll be shelling out for a taste.

Sure, expensive is relative — Brooklyn's burgers have yet to reach the stratosphere of a Minetta Tavern (\$26) or db Bistro Moderne (\$32) over in Capharnaum. But, call us cheap, there is a certain outrage over shelling out more than \$10 for the grilled grub (and sometimes more if you want fries).

Pricy burgers are nothing new, the fault of a national trend that's turned the most basic, and affordable, of diner staples into out-of-reach, luxury items.

"It makes sense that burgers are being reworked into a luxury food, just like the fancy macaroni and cheese fad," said Claire Stewart, a lecturer of culinary arts at City Tech in Downtown. "Chefs are taking so-called 'lowly' food and using the finest ingredients and turning it into a high-class, or at least costly, food."

This trend runs rampant throughout Manhattan, but our fair borough hasn't been immune to its effects, either, and we, frankly, have a beef with that. Brooklyn — which is supposed to be the anecdote to all things soulless about Manhattan — is inexcusably drifting west, and we have the (largely positive) handsawed, leavened, snout-to-tail movement to blame.

In the past couple of years or so, the



**Meat market:** (Clockwise from above) Even at \$16, you get your money's worth at Prime Meats with this flavorful, juicy burger, as shown off here by Dwight Kassen. At \$13, the burger at Diner in Williamsburg is almost modest in comparison to some of the newer borough offerings. The \$15 burger at Fatty 'Cue in Williamsburg features all sorts of sauces and bacon, but does not come with fries. And the cheeseburger at Cebu Bistro is totally worth \$12.



borough has been introduced to a diversity of signature burgers that get fancier, and more costly, with every addition. There's the "hamburger sandwiches" at Brooklyn Heights' Henry Public (\$13), made with Pat LaFrieda beef on an Orwasher's bun and served with juniper-scented pick-

les and a side of fries; the grass-fed beef burger topped with a fried pineapple, house-pickled beets, harissa mayo, and a sunny-side up egg at Five Leaves in Greenpoint (\$15 with fries, but add \$2 and add truffle — enough already — to those fries); and the massive Creekstone Farms Black

Angus eight-ounce burger at Prime Meats in Carroll Gardens (\$16), served with a side of fries, to name just a few.

And you can't talk about Brooklyn patties without mentioning the originators of the gourmet burger in the borough — Williamsburg's 10-year-old Dumont (which has also spawned Dumont Burger and Dressler in the same neighborhood), and its equally established neighbor Diner, which both serve burgers with fries for \$13 — almost modest in comparison to some of the newer offerings.

The chefs at all these places will tell you there's a good reason for the beefed-up price — the prep work that goes into grinding the meat in-house, the cost of locally sourced, sustainable beef, the fact that Gruyere cheese, no matter which way you slice it, isn't cheap.

"Our customers already have an understanding that, yes, it's a little more expensive, but there's a valid reason for it," said Fatty 'Cue chef Steve Hartopoulos. "We're not ripping people off. The beef itself is not cheap, and a lot of work goes into it."

That includes grinding the meat, curing the bacon and smoking the cheese — all from the Williamsburg restaurant. All that handcrafted goodness doesn't make it go down any easier, though. Our tester found the 'Cue burger not worth the asking price (see chart). Did we feel ripped off? No. But did we want to pay \$15 for a burger without so much as a potato skin alongside it? No.

See **BURGERS** on page 7

### MUSIC

## All's Phair!

Liz Phair didn't always like performing. She suffered from stage fright from the start, and would roll her eyes at bandmates who loved the live experience. But now, she's one of the junkies.

"I used to get so stressed out before going out on tour," said Phair from Los Angeles before she kicked off an East Coast tour that brings her to the Music Hall of Williamsburg on Jan. 26. "Now, I'm really enjoying it."

It may be that this rock chameleon is finally comfortable in her own skin. After exploding onto the music scene with her 1995 debut, "Exile from Guyville," a song-by-song refiguration of the Rolling Stones' "Exile on Main Street," Phair played with people's expectations (and her own twenty-something rebellion). There was 1998's "Whitechocolatespaceegg," which revolved around motherhood and family; the commercial, glossy pop of her 2003 self-titled album; and her latest, the off-beat "Funstyle," which finds the singer on one song rapping (yes, rapping).

"I have enough records under my belt so that I can really play songs that people want to hear," said Phair. "It's fun."

Make that funstyle.

Liz Phair at Music Hall of Williamsburg 666 N. Sixth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 466-5400, Jan. 26 at 8 pm. Tickets \$25. For info, visit [www.lizphair.com](http://www.lizphair.com).

—Meredith Deliso

### DINING

## Dry season

Beef jerky: it's a favorite snack food in truck stops, cattle ranges, and... Brooklyn?

Yes, according to Matt Timms, who will throw the "World's Biggest Jerk-Off" on Jan. 23 at the Bell House to see who makes the most delicious dehydrated delicacy.

"You don't think about jerky being huge in the city," said Timms (pictured), "but we didn't think chili would be huge either, but people are rabid about their chili opinions."

Aspiring cooks who think they have what it takes to out-jerk the rest of Brooklyn still have time enter, and of course the general public will be welcome to taste the results.

"People get addicted to that tough texture, and all the flavors and interpretations," Timms said, referencing the number of Brooklyn-based home-jerky makers that have popped up in the past year. "It's cheap to make, super yummy, and an awesome form of protein for active people."

**World's Biggest Jerk Off at the Bell House** 149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, Jan. 23, 4 pm. Admission is \$10 (includes jerky).

—Erica Sackin

### BOOKS

## Island noir

There's a new "Noir" in town.

For nearly 10 years, Akashic Books has been pushing out title after title of its "Noir" crime series, beginning with the first — "Brooklyn Noir" — in 2004, with more than 40 titles in as many cities since.

Truth be told, we've only really cared about the Brooklyn editions, but the latest edition would be criminal to ignore. Published one year after the devastating earthquake, "Haiti Noir" features brand new essays

voices, edited by the most celebrated of them all — Edwidge Danticat.

She was an obvious choice for us. Her work demonstrates a deep understanding of the power of dark fiction," said Akashic publisher Johnny Temple.

On Jan. 27, contributors Marie Lili-Cerant and the Aanu Zobo join Danticat at the main branch of the Brooklyn Public Library to read from the collection, which Akashic had been working on for over a year before the earthquake struck.

"Haiti Noir" reading at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central Branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100, Jan. 27 at 7 pm. Free. For info, visit [www.akashicbooks.com](http://www.akashicbooks.com).

—Meredith Deliso

## Battle of the burgers

If you're going to shell out \$12, \$15, even \$16 for a burger, you want to know if it's good. So we flexed our gustatory muscles (and stretched out our vast expense accounts) and tried some of the priciest burgers in Brooklyn to see if they're worth the asking price. Here's what we found:

Name of joint	Price	Includes...	Description	Is it worth it?
Fatty 'Cue	\$15	Small lame salad	A big mound of meat, bacon, smoky-crunchy pickles and two sauces.	No. It's delicious, but most of the flavor comes from bacon, aioli and chili jam. And no fries? Are you kidding?
Cebu Bistro	\$12	Fries	A huge chunk of meat and melted American cheese. Tomato, lime lettuce and a pickle on the side.	Yes. Juicy, not burnt around the edges, and perfectly melted cheese. A bit salty, though.
Prime Meats	\$16	An overflowing pile of French fries	An eight ounce burger with the works — onion, tomato and lettuce.	Yes. You'll be thinking about this incredibly juicy, flavorful burger long after it's done.
Diner	\$13	A big mound of salty fries	A juicy, cheese-covered mound of grass-fed beef with a delightful smoky taste.	Definitely worth it.
Melt	\$15	A big mound of fries or, better yet, excellent onion rings	A handsome mound of grass-fed beef and cheddar, but the burger is just not tasty enough.	Not worth it — but almost.

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# WHERE TO

## EDITORS' PICKS

**SATURDAY**  
January 22



**Simon says**

Maureen Stapleton may have won the Tony Award for her original performance, but the Ridge Repertory Company is taking a bite out of Neil Simon's "The Gingerbread Lady." This dark-drama follows a cabaret singer as her career and love life go down the drain due to alcoholism—and who in the newspaper business can't relate to that?

8 pm. "The Gingerbread Lady" at Bay Ridge Jewish Center (8025 Fourth Ave. at 81st Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 836-3103). Tickets are \$18.

**SUNDAY**  
January 23

**Mr. Beau Django**

There's no better venue for jazz than Barbes, and there's no better night to head to this vest-pocket room than when the joint is doing its annual Django Reinhardt festival. So catch several tributes to the guitar master, including a set from regular Barbes-er Stephane Wrembel, a jazz guitar god.

7 pm-midnight. Barbes (376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177). For info, visit [www.barbesbrooklyn.com](http://www.barbesbrooklyn.com).

8 pm. "The Gingerbread Lady" at Bay Ridge Jewish Center (8025 Fourth Ave. at 81st Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 836-3103). Tickets are \$18.

**MONDAY**  
January 24



**'Soup' is on**

"Duck Soup" is part of the Big Movies for Little Kids series, but this one is strictly for the adults. The Marx Brothers classic, a satire of war and politics, remains just as zany and truthful as ever. Plus, it also includes Groucho and Harpo's famous minor pantomime gag and lots of jokes at the expense of politicians.

4 pm. "Duck Soup" at Cobble Hill Cinemas (65 Court St. in Cobble Hill, (718) 596-9113). Tickets are \$7.

**THURSDAY**  
January 27

**Trusty Straub**

Emma Straub is not only the hair-forward checkout clerk at our beloved BookCourt, but she's also an author with a hot new tome being sold at the very same Cobble Hill book barn. Straub's "Other People We Married," is a winner—and now instead of buying a book from Straub, you can buy Straub's book from Straub.

7 pm. Emma Straub reads from "Other People We Married" at BookCourt (163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 895-3677). For info, visit [www.bookcourt.org](http://www.bookcourt.org).

8 pm. "Piper McKenzie's Dainty Cadaver" at The Brick (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189). [www.bricktheater.com](http://www.bricktheater.com)

**FRIDAY**  
January 28



**Random house**

The Brick Theater's latest big of insanity is a classic improv game. In this play, "Piper McKenzie's Dainty Cadaver," one playwright writes the opening, and each of 17 successive writers (including Crystal Skillman, pictured) write their passage having only read the previous scene. Sure, nothing connects, but hilarity ensues.

8 pm. "Piper McKenzie's Dainty Cadaver" at The Brick (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189). [www.bricktheater.com](http://www.bricktheater.com)

## NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

**FRI, JAN. 21**

**MUSIC: "THE BREMEN TOWN MUSICIANS"** Russian musical based on Brothers Grimm fairy tale. \$25-\$75. 7 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College (2900 Campus Rd. at Hill Place in Flatbush, (646) 201-9188). [www.russianonline.com](http://www.russianonline.com).

**MUSIC: "IN A FOG-REMEMBER"** Grace and Spiritus Chorale of Brooklyn perform a new work by Julian Grant and Brahms' "German Requiem." \$15 (\$12 seniors and students). 7 pm. Grace Church (254 Hicks St. between Joralemon Street and Ocean Avenue in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 707-1411). [www.graceandspiritus.org](http://www.graceandspiritus.org).

**NEW YORK AVATORS:** Brooklyn's hockey team. \$8-\$75. pm. Aviator Sports (3600 Flatbush Ave. at Floyd Bennett Field in Canarsie, (718) 758-7502). [www.aviatorsports.com](http://www.aviatorsports.com).

**THEATER: "JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN"** Updated version of Henrik Ibsen's classic by Frank McGuinness. \$25 (\$35 Sat. night and Sun. matinee). 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

**READING: "PHILADELPHIA NOIR"** Readings from Carlin Romano, Haim Marcus, Laura Spagnoli, S.J. Rozan and Tim McIlwain. Free. 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore (686 Fulton Place and South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200). [aboutgreenlightbookstore.blogspot.com](http://aboutgreenlightbookstore.blogspot.com).

**MUSIC: EVAN DANDO AND JULIANA HATFIELD:** The alternative rock legends perform. \$15. 7:30 pm. The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6500). [www.thebellhouse.com](http://www.thebellhouse.com).

**THEATER: "THE INTERMINABLE SUCKER OF GREGORY CHURCH"** Daniel Kizson's one-man show. \$35-\$80. 8 pm. Dock Street in DUMBO, (718) 254-8779). [www.staninswarehouse.com](http://www.staninswarehouse.com).

**DANCE: STUDENT WORKS:** \$15 (\$12 in advance). 8 pm. Brooklyn Arts



**Who needs Utah?:** Sundance comes to Brooklyn this month, when festival selection "Kaboom," starring Thomas "Young Tom Cruise" Dekker, screens at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Jan. 27.

Exchange (421 Fifth Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope, (718) 632-0018). [www.bao.org](http://www.bao.org).

**MUSIC: "AMERICAN"** Performed by the Brooklyn Conservatory Chorale. \$10 (\$5 students and seniors). 8 pm. Old First Reformed Church (129 Canal St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-8300).

**KARAOKE:** Free. Midnight. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400). [www.unionhallnyc.com](http://www.unionhallnyc.com).

**THEATER: "WOMEN BEHIND BARS"** Tom Eyre's campy comedy. \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors. 8 pm. Heights Players (26 Willow Pl. between Joralemon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 757-2752). [www.heightsplayers.org](http://www.heightsplayers.org).

**THEATER: "ROUGH MAGIC"** Comic play inspired by Shakespeare's "The Tempest." \$18. 8 pm. Center for Performance Research (341 Manhattan Ave. between Withers and Jackson streets in Williamsburg, (718) 349-1215). [www.cprfestivalofthearts.com](http://www.cprfestivalofthearts.com).

**MUSIC: CLASSICAL CONCERT:** The complete Shostakovich and late Beethoven String Quartets, with the St. Lawrence Quartet. \$35-\$30 senior, \$15 student). 8 pm. Bargemusic (Brooklyn Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2053). [www.bargemusic.org](http://www.bargemusic.org).

**MUSIC: BROOKLYN CONSERVATORY CHORALE:** \$10 (\$10 students, seniors). 8 pm. Old First Reformed Church (129 Canal St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-8300).

**KARAOKE:** Free. Midnight. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400). [www.unionhallnyc.com](http://www.unionhallnyc.com).

**MUSIC: "THE BREMEN TOWN MUSICIANS"** Noon and 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**THEATER: "JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN"** 2 pm and 7:30 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**MUSIC: "IN A FOG-REMEMBER"** See Friday, Jan. 21.

**DANCE: "PLASTIC PEOPLE OF THE UNIVERSE"** Art and dance showcase dedicated to one word: plastics. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. 7:30 pm. Ironside Center (85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 688-9233). [www.ironsidecenter.org](http://www.ironsidecenter.org).

**COMMUNITY BOARD 2 Youth, Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.** Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm. Long Island University (DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 596-5400).

**Community Board 10 Youth Services, Education and Libraries Committee.** 7 pm. Community Board 10 office (8119 Fifth Ave. between 81st and 82nd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6272).

**Community Board 6 Public Safety Committee.** Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm. PS 58 (330 Smith St. at First Place in Carroll Gardens, (718) 643-3027). [www.brooklynindie.com](http://www.brooklynindie.com).

**Community Board 2 Executive Committee.** Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm. Long Island University (DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 596-5400).

**Community Board 10 Full Board meeting.** 7:15 pm. Shore Hill Community Room (9000 Shore Rd. at 91st Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6272). [www.bkcb6.org](http://www.bkcb6.org).

**TUES, JAN. 25**  
78th Precinct Community Council. Monthly meeting. 7:30 pm. Precinct Stationhouse (65 Sixth Ave. at Bergen Street in Park Slope, (718) 636-4410).

**Bay Ridge Community Council.** On the agenda: Identity theft. 7:30 pm. Knights of Columbus (1305 86th St. in Dyker Heights, (718) 456-8374).

**WED, JAN. 26**  
Community Board 6 Youth Committee. 6:30 pm. Fifth Avenue Com-

**SAT, JAN. 22**

**PERFORMANCE**

**MUSIC: "THE BREMEN TOWN MUSICIANS"** Noon and 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

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**MUSIC: BROOKLYN CONSERVATORY CHORALE:** \$10 (\$10 students, seniors). 8 pm. Old First Reformed Church (129 Canal St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-8300).

**KARAOKE:** Free. Midnight. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400). [www.unionhallnyc.com](http://www.unionhallnyc.com).

**THEATER: "WOMEN BEHIND BARS"** Tom Eyre's campy comedy. \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors. 8 pm. Heights Players (26 Willow Pl. between Joralemon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 757-2752). [www.heightsplayers.org](http://www.heightsplayers.org).

**THEATER: "ROUGH MAGIC"** Comic play inspired by Shakespeare's "The Tempest." \$18. 8 pm. Center for Performance Research (341 Manhattan Ave. between Withers and Jackson streets in Williamsburg, (718) 349-1215). [www.cprfestivalofthearts.com](http://www.cprfestivalofthearts.com).

**MUSIC: CLASSICAL CONCERT:** The complete Shostakovich and late Beethoven String Quartets, with the St. Lawrence Quartet. \$35-\$30 senior, \$15 student). 8 pm. Bargemusic (Brooklyn Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2053). [www.bargemusic.org](http://www.bargemusic.org).

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**http://**  
Find lots more listings online at [BrooklynPaper.com/Events](http://BrooklynPaper.com/Events)

**THEATER: "THE GINGERBREAD LADY"** Ridge Repertory Company presents the comedic play about a cabaret singer. Created by Neil Simon and directed by James Maninelli. \$18. 8 pm. Bay Ridge Jewish Center (8025 Fourth Ave. at the corner of 81st Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 836-3103). [www.bayridgerep.com](http://www.bayridgerep.com).

**THEATER: "THE INTERMINABLE SUICIDE OF GREGORY CHURCH"** 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**DANCE: STUDENT WORKS:** \$15 (\$12 in advance). 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**MUSIC: CLASSICAL CONCERT:** 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**SALES AND MARKETS**  
**BROOKLYN BOROUGHS HALL GREENMARKET:** 8 am-4 pm. (Court and Montague streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 788-7476). [www.growmynyc.org](http://www.growmynyc.org).

**FORT GREENE PARK GREENMARKET:** 8 am-4 pm. (Washington Pl. between DeKalb and Willowby avenues in Fort Greene, (212) 788-7476). [www.growmynyc.org](http://www.growmynyc.org).

**DESIGNER AND VINTAGE MARKET:** 8 am-4 pm. (70 N. Seventh St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 301-5765). [www.artistandale.com](http://www.artistandale.com).

**PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET:** Brooklyn's answer to Union Square. 9 am-4 pm. Grand Army Plaza (Union Street at Flatbush Avenue in Park Slope, (212) 788-7476). [www.brooklynindie.com](http://www.brooklynindie.com).

**BROOKLYN FLEA:** Vendors on three floors. 10 am-6 pm. Skyline One Hanson (One Hanson Place at Flatbush Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 230-0400). [www.brooklynindie.com](http://www.brooklynindie.com).

**BROOKLYN INDIE MARKET:** Collective of fashion and product designers. 11 am-7 pm. Smith and Union streets in Carroll Gardens, (718) 310-7635). [www.brooklynindie.com](http://www.brooklynindie.com).

**OTHER**  
**TALK: "ECONOMIC AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION—THE PRICE THAT FARMWORKER WOMEN PAY TO FEED US"** Led by Monica Ramirez. 2 pm. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pl. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000). [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org).

**PASTA PARTY:** Fundraiser for Prospect Hill Senior Center. \$10. 5-8 pm. See 9 DAYS on page 8.

**CIVIC CALENDAR**

**MON, JAN. 24**  
Community Board 6 Public Safety Committee. Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm. PS 58 (330 Smith St. at First Place in Carroll Gardens, (718) 643-3027). [www.brooklynindie.com](http://www.brooklynindie.com).

**TUES, JAN. 25**  
78th Precinct Community Council. Monthly meeting. 7:30 pm. Precinct Stationhouse (65 Sixth Ave. at Bergen Street in Park Slope, (718) 636-4410).

**Bay Ridge Community Council.** On the agenda: Identity theft. 7:30 pm. Knights of Columbus (1305 86th St. in Dyker Heights, (718) 456-8374).

**WED, JAN. 26**  
Community Board 6 Youth Committee. 6:30 pm. Fifth Avenue Com-

**mittee.** 6:30 pm. Fifth Avenue Com-

**mittee.** 6:30 pm. Fifth Avenue Com-

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# Burgers for less

By Meredith Deliso  
The Brooklyn Paper

If you're hungry for a burger, you don't always need to break the bank for a good one. We hit the borough and found some cheap — yet enormously satisfying — Brooklyn burgers, all for a Hamilton or less.

## Grand Canyon

This Brooklyn Heights diner's seven-ounce monster is a mouth-watering classic. The \$7.95 cost includes fries, and, for an extra 90 cents, cheese.

Grand Canyon [141 Montague St. between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 797-1402].

## The Commodore

This newish Williamsburg bar has become a culinary destination, thanks to its delicious pub grub. That includes a tasty, compact burger (\$6) that the Village Voice's Robert Siegfried called possibly the best burger he ate last year.

The Commodore [366 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-7632].

## Junior's

Come here hungry, as you definitely get your money's worth at this Downtown destination, thanks to a 10-ounce cheeseburger (\$8.95). You might not have room for cheesecake (yeah, right).

Junior's [386 Flatbush Avenue Extension at DeKalb Avenue in Downtown, (718) 852-5257].

## Morton's

Yes, Morton's is a pricey steakhouse, but you can still get three mini-cheeseburgers for only \$7 during the week-day "power hour" special, so plan accordingly.



Grand style: The prices are right and the burger is juicy at Grand Canyon on Montague Street.

Morton's Steakhouse [339 Adams St. between Willoughby Street and the Myrtle Avenue promenade in Downtown, (718) 596-2700].

## Hope and Anchor

Try the Classic Red Hook Burger — a half-pound of fresh Angus beef topped with bacon, cheddar, and grilled onions, served with fries and greens on the side, all for only \$8.

Hope and Anchor [347 Van Brunt St. between Sullivan and Volcott streets in Red Hook, (718) 237-0276].

## Pipin's Pub

At this Bay Ridge bar, get a burger, fries and soup — all for only \$8. Will they look down on us if we eat there every night this winter?

Pipin's Pub [9701 Third Ave. between 97th Street and Marine Avenue

in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-1183].

## Mullanes Bar and Grill

This Fort Greene pub is famous for its burgers, but you can still get one for under \$9.50, including hand-cut fries.

Mullanes Bar and Grill [71 Lafayette Ave. at S. Elliott Place in Fort Greene, (718) 797-2606].

## Dram Shop

If you get hungry after a turn at Scrabble or bocce at this game-filled bar, you can't go wrong with its double cheeseburger, with lettuce, pickles, mayo and mustard, and hand-cut fries. All for only \$10, leaving plenty of cash for beer.

Dram Shop [339 Ninth St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 788-1444].

## BURGERS

Continued from page 5

As for other beef-busters, we checked out the \$15 burger at Melt, which is crafted with grass-fed beef and comes with cheddar cheese, roasted tomato, and a pickle. In the end, it was edible, sure, but worth the price? Almost — the meat-to-bun ration was all wrong, and we were more entranced by the side of onion rings.

With such weighty asking prices, it can also be difficult to divorce price from experience; we loved the Prime Meats burger, one of the most expensive in Brooklyn this side of Peter Luger, especially thanks to the heaping mound of hand-cut French fries. But after putting out

\$16 for it (and more for cheese and bacon), we also wanted to love it.

For those who want a good burger without breaking the bank, there is some reprieve in sight. Danny Meyer's Shake Shack, which offers burgers made with all the same buzz words but sold at around "fast food" prices, will open in Downtown this year. Even though it's a Manhattan-based chain, we'll welcome it with open arms if that means we can hand over \$10 for a tasty burger and fries, and get change back.

But why bother? Around lunchtime, we find ourselves salivating over the prime candidate for less-than-\$10 perfection: the seven-ounce burger at Grand Canyon on

Montague Street. The Brooklyn Heights diner shows that you don't have to sacrifice taste for cost (for other contenders, see our sidebar). Owner Frank Konidaris prides himself on his juicy, filling cheeseburger, made with top-quality beef. And when all is said and done, it will only cost you \$8.85. That includes fries and a hearty pickle — everything you need for a satisfying meal that won't send you to the poorhouse.

"If you want to pay any more than that," said Konidaris, "I don't know what you want from a burger."

Diner [85 Broadway at Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 486-3077]. Dumont [432 Union Ave. between Keap and Devoe

streets in Williamsburg, (718) 486-7717]. Dumont Burger [314 Bedford Ave. between S. First and S. Second streets in Williamsburg, (718) 384-6128]. Dressler [149 Broadway at S. Sixth Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384-6343]. Five Leaves [18 Bedford Ave. at Nassau Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5345]. Grand Canyon [141 Montague St. between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 797-1402]. Henry Public [329 Henry St. near Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 852-8630]. Melt [440 Bergen St. between Fifth and Flatbush avenues in Park Slope, (718) 230-5925]. Prime Meats [465 Court St. at Lucery Street in Carroll Gardens, (718) 254-0327].

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## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

pm. Prospect Hill Senior Center (383 Prospect Ave. in Park Slope, (718) 499-9574, [www.phscnline.org](http://www.phscnline.org)).  
**FILM, AN EVENING WITH JOEL M. REED:** Screening of "Blood Sucking Freaks" followed by Q&A with the controversial cast director. \$10-\$7 (students), 5 pm and 9 pm. Frost Street Art and Performance Space (17 Frost St. in Williamsburg, (718) 551-4771, [www.frostst.com](http://www.frostst.com)).  
**NEW YORK AVIATORS:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

### SUN, JAN. 23

#### PERFORMANCE

**THEATER, "WOMEN BEHIND BARS":** 2 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.  
**THEATER, "JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN":** 3 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**MUSIC, "AMERICAN":** 3 pm. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church (85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Ave. in Fort Greene, (718) 622-3300, [www.bqpn.org](http://www.bqpn.org)).  
**MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT:** 3 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**THEATER, "THE INTERMINABLE SUICIDE OF GREGORY CHURCH":** 4 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**MUSIC, GRACE & SPIRITUS CHORAL OF BROOKLYN:** Winter concert. 5:15 (\$12 students and seniors), 4 pm. Old First Reformed Church (729 Carroll St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 336-8300).  
**THEATER, "THE GINGER BREAD LADY":** 5 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.

**DANCE, PERFORMANCES:** 6 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.  
**MUSIC, "IN A FOG-REMEMBER":** 7 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**MUSIC, DIANGO REINHARDT FESTIVAL:** 7 pm-midnight. Barbes (376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, [www.barbesbrooklyn.com](http://www.barbesbrooklyn.com)).  
**MUSIC, THE RUBENS QUARTET:** Renowned Holland-based orchestra. Donations requested. 7 pm. St. Thomas Aquinas Church (249 Ninth St. in Park Slope, (917) 579-7555, [www.musicallia.com](http://www.musicallia.com)).

**SALES AND MARKETS**

**DESIGNER AND VINTAGE MARKET:** 8 am-6 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.  
**BROOKLYN FLEA:** 10 am-6 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.  
**BROOKLYN INDIAN MARKET:** 11 am-4 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.

**OTHER**

**TALK, "THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NEW YORK CITY":** Editor Kenneth T. Jackson discusses the revised Encyclopedia of New York City, which updates the 1995 classic. Free. 1:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).  
**CLIMATE AWARENESS DAY:**

Guest speaker Liz Butler discusses the bad news on climate change. \$5 suggested donation. 2-5 pm. Congregation Beth Shalom (274 Garfield Pl. at Eighth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-2571).

**READING, SPIKE LEE:** Author of "The World, as I See It," co-written with Lewis Lewis. 3 pm. PowerHouse Arena (37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049, [www.powerhousearena.com](http://www.powerhousearena.com)).

**CONTEST, JERK OFF:** Jerky makers compete. \$10. 4 pm. The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, [www.thebell-house.com](http://www.thebell-house.com)).

**ART, "CONTINUAL DNA":** 7 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**COMEDY, "PRETTY GOOD FRIENDS":** A comedy show hosted by Eugene Mirman. 7:30 pm. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, [www.unionhall.com](http://www.unionhall.com)).

**MON, JAN. 24**

**FILM, "DUCK SOUP":** The Marx Brothers are going zany best in this idiosyncratic-humy political satire. 4 pm. Cobble Hill Cinemas (65 Court St. in Cobble Hill, (718) 596-9113).

**TRIVIA NIGHT:** Free. 8-10 pm. The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, [www.thebell-house.com](http://www.thebell-house.com)).

**MUSIC, CHICKA LIRE:** Mixture of Latin rhythms, surf music and psychedelia. 9:30 pm. Barbes (376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, [www.barbesbrooklyn.com](http://www.barbesbrooklyn.com)).

**TUES, JAN. 25**

**BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL GREENMARKET:** 8 am-4 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.

**WORKSHOP, HOW TO START A SPECIALTY FOOD BUSINESS:** Experts explain how to take a product from the kitchen to the marketplace. \$20V required. Free. 6-7:30 pm. Brooklyn Business Library (280 Madison Plaza W. at Tillary Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 623-7000, [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/business/programs](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/business/programs)).

**TALK, "JUST BROTHERS—CAN WE TALK?":** A forum featuring New York Nets coach Avery Johnson. Free. 6:30 pm. First Baptist Church of Crown Heights (450 Eastern Parkway, (718) 778-1209, [www.facebook.com/FBCCHMM](http://www.facebook.com/FBCCHMM)).

**FILM, "HELLO A JOB":** Part of a South African film discussion series. Free. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

**READING, BROWNSTONE POETS:** Open mic followed by poets Davidson Garrett and Susanna Rick. Free. 7 pm. Tilly's (248 DeKalb Ave. at Vanderbilt Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 783-6140, [www.tillysbooks.com](http://www.tillysbooks.com)).

**THURS, JAN. 27**

**BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL GREENMARKET:** 8 am-4 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.

**WORKSHOP, "THE ENTREPRENEURIAL EQUATION":** Small business



Transfected theater: Shakespeare's "The Tempest" gets a comic update in "Rough Magic," courtesy of the company A Festival of Fools. Catch it at the Center for Performance Research in Williamsburg.

**lyn.com.**  
**THEATER, "JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN":** 7:30 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.  
**THEATER, "THE INTERMINABLE SUICIDE OF GREGORY CHURCH":** 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**WED, JAN. 26**

**TALK, ECONOMIC OUTLOOK WITH COMPTROLLER JOHN LUI:** Hosted by the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. \$40 (\$50 non-members). 8:30-10 am. Shearson Brooklyn New York Hotel (228 Dufrail St. at Willoughby Street in Downtown, (718) 875-1000 X116, [www.brooklyncham.com](http://www.brooklyncham.com)).

**READING, "TELLING STORIES":** Featuring Rachel Bernstein, Esther Cohen, Jennifer Scott, Steve Zeilin and Nina Tabbot. Free. 6 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society (128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111, [www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org)).

**THEATER, "JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN":** 7:30 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**THEATER, "THE INTERMINABLE SUICIDE OF GREGORY CHURCH":** 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**MUSIC, UZ PHAIR:** Singer stars for his new album, "Fursyle." \$25. 9 pm. Music Hall of Williamsburg (66 N. Sixth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486-5400, [www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com](http://www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com)).

**MUSIC, ROOTS & RUCKUS:** Night of folk, old-time and blues music. 9 pm. Jalepy (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhul Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214, [www.jalepy.biz](http://www.jalepy.biz)).

**THURS, JAN. 27**

**BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL GREENMARKET:** 8 am-4 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.

**WORKSHOP, "THE ENTREPRENEURIAL EQUATION":** Small business

lyn.blogspot.com.  
**THEATER, "THE INTERMINABLE SUICIDE OF GREGORY CHURCH":** 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

### FRI, JAN. 28

**THEATER, "PIPER MCKENZIE'S DAINY CADAVER":** One-night-only performances of three plays written in this unique collaborative style. The Brick (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189, [www.thebricktheater.com](http://www.thebricktheater.com)).

**THEATER, "JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN":** 7:30 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**THEATER, "THE INTERMINABLE SUICIDE OF GREGORY CHURCH":** 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT:** Selections by Beethoven, Brahms, Ravel, with Mark Peskanov, violin. \$35 (\$30 senior, \$15 student). 8 pm. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083, [www.bargemusic.org](http://www.bargemusic.org)).

**KARAOKE:** Free. Midnight. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, [www.unionhall.com](http://www.unionhall.com)).

**SAT, JAN. 29**

**PERFORMANCE**

**THEATER, "PIPER MCKENZIE'S DAINY CADAVER":** See Friday, Jan. 28.

**THEATER, "JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN":** 2 pm and 7:30 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**THEATER, "THE GINGER BREAD LADY":** 8 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.

**THEATER, "THE INTERMINABLE SUICIDE OF GREGORY CHURCH":** 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 21.

**THEATER, THE DROWSY CHAPERONE:** Gallery Players perform Tony-winning musical. \$18, \$14 (seniors and children under 12), 8 pm. Gallery Players (199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101, [galleryplayers.com](http://galleryplayers.com)).

**MUSIC, MISSION OF BURMA, BURE AND GASS:** Rock music. \$20. 8 pm. The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, [www.thebell-house.com](http://www.thebell-house.com)).

**SALES AND MARKETS**

**BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL GREENMARKET:** 8 am-4 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.

**FORT GREENE PARK GREENMARKET:** 8 am-4 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.

**GREENPOINT/MCCAREN PARK GREENMARKET:** 8 am-4 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.

**ARTIST, DESIGNER AND VINTAGE MARKET:** 8 am-4 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.

**PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET:** 9 am-4 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.

**BROOKLYN FLEA:** 10 am-6 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.

**BROOKLYN INDIAN MARKET:** 11 am-7 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 22.

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# Bottled up

Brooklyn Oenology hosts contest to design label

By Michelle Manetti  
for The Brooklyn Paper

The search is on for the Next Great Wine Bottle Artist.

But this is not some Bravo reality show — it's an actual contest by the Williamsburg-based winery, Brooklyn Oenology, which has made a name for itself with its great wine and its great labels.

"Since we're based in Brooklyn, I wanted the winery to be more than just wine," said owner Ali Shaper. "And one of the great things about Brooklyn is being around all these artistic endeavors."

The challenge? A 2010 Sauvignon Blanc. It's dry. It's crisp. It's got a hint of cit-

rus. It's crying out for something classy, Shaper said.

Any artist endeavor will be considered for the label — except the winner must be based in Brooklyn and the label can't feature nudity (well, there goes our entry).

But it doesn't have to be related to Brooklyn, just original," Shaper said.

The deadline is Jan. 31, after which the Brooklyn Oenology staff will choose five or six finalists. Customers at Shaper's new Tasting Room on Wythe Avenue will pick the winner from those finalists.

In hosting a contest, Shaper's approach to branding is vastly different from her neighbors. Brooklyn Brewery, after all, hired

internationally known graphic designer Milton Glaser to do its "B" logo (and Glaser is working with a former Brewery co-founder on labels for a new line of spirits).

Glaser, of course, was richly compensated, but Shaper may be offering something far better than cash: The winning label — which peels off so that it can live on long after the last glass has been downed — will be on a top notch wine distributed all over the country (and you know how those French chateaux are always hiring away our best wine bottle artists, so there could be a big payday down the road).

Plus, Shaper will hang the winning artist's other work in a solo art show at the Tasting Room.

Brooklyn Oenology Tasting Room 209 Wythe Ave. between N. Third and N. Fourth streets in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1299. Submissions must include a bio, and a web link, and be sent to [sally@brooklynoenology.com](mailto:sally@brooklynoenology.com) by Jan. 31. For info, visit [brooklynoenology.com](http://brooklynoenology.com).

# New juicy food gossip

Lots of restaurants conspire this week to make sure we never have to leave our apartments again. Plus, not one but two haute dog destinations are expanding. Read on for all this and more of the tastiest tidbits in restaurants all over Brooklyn.

**Doggedly delicious:** Mmm. What's better than an offering of late-tots, chili cheese fries and deep fried hot dogs? An offering of all three for breakfast, lunch and dinner of course. With hours from 7 am until 2 am (noon to 4 am on weekends) the newly opened Crif Dogs is making sure lucky Williamsburg residents will be feasting on all hot dogs all the time.

**Bark and bike:** Park Slopers and Prospect Heights no longer have to go barking mad trying to get their wiener fix. Our friends from Prospect Heights Patch report that on Jan. 26 the hot dog staple Bark will start delivering on its promise of high-end hot dogs — literally — with bicycle messengers bringing the goods to residents both 'hoods.

**Cue the short ribs:** And in other exciting delivery news, the spicy smoky Mexican-themed BIKO joint Mexico just got a little closer to my heart, and to yours, if you live in the Williamsburg area. The food truck/home kitchen is expanding its reach into living rooms around Division Avenue and N. 14th Street with its newly offered home delivery service. Yum!

**Go-go-Gowanus:** Gowanus' indoor farmer's market in the American Can Factory won't just be selling you fresh vegetables — it'll be making your breakfast out of them. Our friends at Brooklyn Based report that the recently reopened vendor venue will be featuring meals for sale made out of the surrounding farm stands' offerings.

**Foodie-in-Chief**  
By Erica Sackin

cooked up by the husband and wife duo behind Fork and Glass.

**Expanding 'line:** What's the next logical step after conquering multiple Manhattan locations? Why set up shop in Brooklyn, of course. Brooklyn 365 reports the rumor that the team behind the 'motea family of restaurants that made truffled egg toast famous will be opening up a new location soon on N. Eighth and Berry streets in Williamsburg.

**Williamsburg whiners:** Stay away, Miss Muffett, this Tuffett is loaded — with an impressive selection of wines, as well as cheeses, coffee and goods from Amy's Bread. Zagat blog (yes, Zagat blog) reports that the new Williamsburg wine bar opened on New Year's Eve, but is already promising locals much

better fare than curds and whey. **Back to the grind:** Is Fifth Avenue getting over-cafeinated? It might be, with yet another coffee shop opening in the space formerly occupied by Serene Rose. Any more and it'll be official, Park Slope might just be full of more baristas than baby strollers.

**Spotted on Dean:** Pig out time! Looks like Dean Street, a new Bistrot in Prospect Heights just opened up shop on its namesake, and has a kitchen run by Nate Smith, formerly of the Spotted Pig. Expect dinner lines to wrap around the block in 3-2-1 ...

**Pie's the limit:** Ready, set, roll! The fourth annual Brooklyn pie contest will be held in Williamsburg on Jan. 23, pitting 50 bakers against each other to see just who makes the borough's best pie. All proceeds go to benefit growing chefs, the field-to-fork educational program affiliated with Eagle Street Rooftop Farms. But would-be bakers better get there early: this pie contest is first-come, first-serve.

**Jumping Juniper:** Tom Mak of the Lazy Catfish in Williamsburg may have closed in April, but that doesn't mean he's abandoned ship. Instead, he's opened up a new space, Juniper, at 112 Berry St. between N. Sixth and N. Seventh streets, where he's serving a full menu of delicious offerings including pulled pork sandwiches and a scrumptious truffle burger.

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# The Brooklyn Paper

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## The snowstorm was heaven sent

Perhaps Mayor Bloomberg intentionally fumbled the Blizzard of 2010 to teach New Yorkers a lesson in sucking things up. It certainly was just that for my kids, who got a glimpse of what life might be like if they weren't so coddled.

I never thought it would happen, even as the weather forecasts predicted the worst. One piece of the fearlessness I try to model for my children is a lack of concern for weather reports (often false) and parking dilemmas (often overblown). Life is too short to try to predict and control either of these things, so, I figure, one must forge forward.

My bravery on my little boys' behalf has me boldly drive right to the front of my

destination and assume the Universe will provide space. It often does. But this time, the Universe offered up a lesson rarely available to us Upper Middle Class folk except at great cost when we go to grand locations: it offered up adventure of the slightly scary kind, the kind that necessitates doing something unplanned and unvisited-for.

We were driving back to Brooklyn from a weekend ski trip when it began to sink in that our warnings we had gotten from neighbors were, in fact, valid. Streets had not been plowed. We drove slowly along Columbia Street turning as usual onto Union Street before getting stuck behind a disabled vehicle. We got going again and drove around the block only to get stuck behind another.

I saw a street off to our left that was clear, of cars at least. Sure it was going the wrong way, but in emergencies, regular rules don't apply (not that I follow the regular rules anyway).

"Go this way!" I directed the Big G. He started to protest, but he quickly reacted anyway and started down narrow Cheever Street. As he attempted to forge forward, though, we began to skid, seemingly straight toward one or the other row of



### Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

parked cars staring straight at us. The kids began to whimper in the back seat, picking up on the vibe that things had suddenly, upon slightly out of context, become scary.

Like I do during bad airplane turbulence, I just closed my eyes and got calm. We started to fly forward and there, all of a sudden, we were stopped. I opened my eyes and there we were, smack dab in the middle of probably the last open parking space in all of Brownstone, Brooklyn. It didn't seem to matter at all that the space was a mile or two from home or turned the wrong way on a one-way street.

I started laughing and gathered my things from the floor nonchalantly. Nothing else mattered. Not the car, not our stuff, not the fact that everyone had to go to the bathroom. We were safe. It was a moment of pure appreciation of personal safety that I rarely get a glimpse of, that my children rarely see, because we take so much for granted.

From the back seat, confusion reigned. Oscar started to cry: "Where are we? How are we going to get home?" "It's fine," I said. "Grab your puppies [stuffed ones]. We can walk, or find the train."

I shuttled the boys onto the sidewalk as Big G attempted to pull in a bit closer to the curb. Standing there feebly, Oscar in tears still, scared, it occurred to me that this was a good thing: a lesson of the kind you wouldn't choose to teach, you wouldn't manufacture on purpose to freak out your kids, but that is crucial just the same.

"We're going to be fine," I said smiling, wiping Oscar's tears. "This is an adventure. We can't always pull up right in front of our apartment and have things be so easy. We can handle it, you can handle it."

Big G and I each grabbed one of our L.L. Bean canvas bags embroidered The Thompsons, leaving behind our suitcases and Subaru with only the slightest trepidation. And we began to trudge.

"Do you even know where we are?" Oscar asked, wiping at his face as he tried to keep his face as dry as possible. We were just right off Smith Street, mere blocks from the Carroll Street stop on the F train. This was hardly the Death March. But, to the boys, we might as well have been in a war zone. Creature comforts had been cast aside, belonging abandoned in favor of braving the elements, climbing the mountains of snow behind intersections where moving trucks were inexplicably unloading in the middle of the street. The boys weren't their usual rambunctious selves. As our car, our safe harbor, receded into the distance, they began to understand that this was serious. This was about taking care of yourself, taking stock of what was important and moving forward fearlessly.

The train, after a pit stop at an Italian restaurant, seemed hardly a savior. It felt more like life as depicted in films of Soviet Russia, the long, worried faces of passengers offering up an indication of what the city had suffered in the few days since we'd been gone. Stories started to unfold of people getting stuck places, on trains and planes, in their cars. By the time we got home, the boys were downright giddy, savoring the warmth and light of their home, savoring their safety.

So to whomver is responsible for messing up the storm cleanup, I offer my thanks. You provided a crucial window into what's really important, into what we think we need to get through life that we really, really don't.

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## HOTEL...

Continued from page 1  
public review process overseen by such officials as Markowitz and other recipients of the Halkias' largesse rather than through a different process that would require the developer to show that his project is vital

because of "economic hardship" rather than simply a desire to build the benefit of 10 additional jobs that the project promises.

Not everyone at the meeting was hypnotized by Halkias, whose catering

hall's motto is, "We make your dreams come true."

"This isn't as altruistic as it sounds," said Prospect Avenue resident George Lioedice, who said he's dreading the additional traffic that the project would bring.

And others have complained about a flir that Halkias sent out to neighbors that touted the project, yet included a threat to bring in "low-end clientele [in] large numbers" if the hotel plan is defeated.

"It sounds like a threat to me, and I don't like being threatened," 16th Street resident Bo Samanopoulos said earlier this week. "Is he saying that he is going to bring low-lives here and subject to screw with us?"

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tion Grid's distribution system at Maspeth and Varick avenues, and will eventually heat the homes and stores of millions of New Yorkers.

The resulting network will remove 16,650 tons of carbon dioxide annually — which is equivalent to keeping 3,000 vehicles off the road.

As such, Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Cas Holloway called the project "predecessor."

"It's a terrific clean-energy project that will generate a lot of interest," said Holloway. "This is a place where we're doing cutting-

edge renewable energy, and it is going to be a draw."

But some community leaders complained of the project's main drawback: it will deprive neighborhood leaders of land on which they had hoped to build a small park.

"We're very excited about the actual project, but the combination of the location and its loss is a problem for us," said Newtown Creek Monitoring Committee member Laura Hoffmann.

Holloway revealed that National Grid will work with the

sewage plant's architect to continue its "Greenpoint industrial chic" design. But he dismissed the suggestion to relocate the project to a nearby site.

"This really is the spot because the infrastructure is there," said Holloway. "I don't want to give the impression there is a real viable set of alternatives for this project elsewhere in the plan. It has to be at the plant to take advantage of the plant's energy."

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## BROWN...

Continued from page 1

"Typically when a young journalist wins an award like this, a good deal of the credit goes to the mentor who shaped him, who informed his reporting, who lavished attention on his raw copy, who set him straight when he made bad choices — and I would be the first person to say that I am that man," Kuntzman said. "But in this case, the credit belongs entirely to Stephen, who sets a new standard for the modern multi-media journalist."

Indeed, just before winning the award, Brown took a new job with an upstart web-based news site, Patch.com. But he still looks fondly back on his studies at the Gerst Kuntzman School of Journalism and Grill.

"I had the freedom to cover all kinds of controversial, and bizarre stuff around the borough," he said. "On any given day, I could have been writing a review of a Brooklyn Museum show, doing a video about my time in an isolation tank, writing a

story about slaughtered geese or mounds of garbage in Prospect Park, preparing an article about an innovative apartment unit made from dried pork, heading to MCU Park to write my Cyclones column, or bugging out a hard news story about the redevelopment of Coney Island."

"But I really do owe it all to my former editor," he added. "Just being in the office that day Gerst Kuntzman self-administered a caffeine suppository for a story was a game-changer."

The praise of Kuntzman was not entirely unwarranted. The Brooklyn Paper editor furnished his creden-

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This time, however, Kuntzman had been nominated in the much-tougher "daily newspaper" category, a tribute to The Brooklyn Paper's frenetically updated daily website, BrooklynPaper.com.

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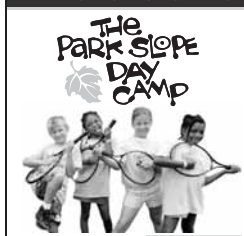
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